Nitin Sathe Media Kit

Air Commodore Nitin Sathe Retired

Author and storyteller | Aviation | Military history | Leadership | Resilience

Stories from the uniform. Lessons for life.

This profile brings together biography copy, books, discussion themes and selected public references for journalists, interview hosts and event organisers.

1 Short biography

Air Commodore Nitin Sathe (Retd.) is an author and former Indian Air Force helicopter pilot whose writing explores aviation, military history, leadership and resilience. During 36 years in the IAF, he served as Director of Training at the National Defence Academy and as President of the Services Selection Board. His seven catalogue titles include Born to Fly, Up in the Sky, 1971. 1999. War Stories, A Few Good Men and the Angry Sea and SSB Simplified. His work combines personal recollection with veterans' accounts, biography and practical reflection on people, preparation and responsibility.

Name and introduction

Formal name: Air Commodore Nitin Sathe (Retd.). Short form: Nitin Sathe. A suitable spoken introduction is: "Air Commodore Nitin Sathe, retired Indian Air Force helicopter pilot and author."

Finding the right material

Start with the Books section for a particular title, the Knowledge Centre for subject-based reading, and Videos and Interviews for recorded conversations. Media references distinguish independent reviews, coverage, publisher promotion and editorial credits.

Website and current resources

2 Extended biography

Air Commodore Nitin Sathe (Retd.) is an author and former Indian Air Force helicopter pilot. His work connects stories of service with questions about judgement, courage, preparation and the way people respond to adversity. His subjects range from helicopter operations and military history to biography, disaster recovery and the development of young people.

During 36 years in the Indian Air Force, he served as Director of Training at the National Defence Academy and as President of the Services Selection Board. His recollections of learning to fly helicopters at the Helicopter Training School in 1985 form part of his published aviation writing. Following the 2004 tsunami, he was part of the team tasked with rebuilding the Car Nicobar air base within a 100-day deadline. He recorded that experience in A Few Good Men and the Angry Sea, first published in 2014.

His books also include Born to Fly, about M. P. Anil Kumar; the Hindi title Mann Kee Udaan; Up in the Sky; 1971. 1999. War Stories; The Siachen Soldier and Other Stories; and SSB Simplified. In The Siachen Soldier and Other Stories, Sathe contributes prose and Suneet Madan contributes poetry.

Alongside personal memoir, Sathe records the experiences of other veterans through interviews and research. His article archive and recorded conversations provide routes into these subjects for readers, educators, institutions and defence enthusiasts. His SSB-related work emphasises self-understanding and preparation without a guarantee of selection.

Biography references

Vitasta author profile

Publisher biography accompanying SSB Simplified

Chetak and Helicopter Training School recollections

3 Books and reading routes

Title	Subject and credit
Born to Fly	The life of M. P. Anil Kumar; biography and resilience.
Mann Kee Udaan	A Hindi title about M. P. Anil Kumar’s life.
Up in the Sky	Helicopter stories and the people within flying experiences.
1971. 1999. War Stories	Military oral histories and veteran accounts.
A Few Good Men and the Angry Sea	Car Nicobar after the 2004 tsunami; recovery and leadership.
The Siachen Soldier and Other Stories	Prose by Nitin Sathe; poetry by Suneet Madan.
SSB Simplified	SSB preparation, self-awareness and personal development.

The catalogue includes different languages and editions. Purchase links and edition information are provided on the individual website pages. Readers should check the supplier’s current edition, availability and terms before ordering.

For reading groups and institutions

Choose a book for the audience and a question for discussion. After reading, identify the situation, the decision, the people affected and the questions left open. Keep personal memoir distinct from accounts gathered through interviews. For institutional supply, prepare the subject, language, quantity and timing before discussing availability with the supplier.

Book library and reading guide

4 Interview and discussion themes

Aviation and responsibility

Helicopter flying, preparation, crew communication and the people behind a mission. A conversation can begin with a particular published story and examine how the author remembers the situation and his decisions.

Military history and oral testimony

Veteran accounts from 1971 and Kargil, the work of listening and interviewing, and the difference between firsthand experience and collected testimony. The book and article series provide material for discussing both events and the recording of memory.

Resilience and human support

Biography, adversity and the relationships within a life story. Born to Fly provides a starting point for discussing resilience through an individual’s experience rather than a general motivational formula.

SSB awareness and youth development

Self-understanding, genuine interests, preparation habits, responsibility and learning from feedback. Historical examination advice needs to be read alongside current official notifications. No book or preparation process guarantees selection.

Crisis and recovery

The Car Nicobar recovery narrative offers a setting for questions about coordination, constraints and rebuilding. A historical case can support reflection; it does not by itself establish an organisation’s current readiness or replace a local emergency plan.

Speaking themes and audience routes

5 Selected recorded conversations

Recordings remain on their original platforms. Audio podcasts, video interviews, panel appearances and an article-embedded video are identified separately.

CANDID TALKS with BharatV — Air Cmde Nitin Sathe, Part 1

Audio podcast | CANDID TALKS with BharatV / Bharat Vatsa | 2024-10-07. Role: Interview guest.

Open the original recording or platform listing

CANDID TALKS with BharatV — Air Cmde Nitin Sathe, Part 2

Audio podcast | CANDID TALKS with BharatV / Bharat Vatsa | 2024-10-13. Role: Interview guest.

Open the original recording or platform listing

Mumbai Geopolitics Literature Festival: defence history and resilience panel

YouTube video | Sangam Talks | 2025-10-19. Role: Panel speaker.

Open the original recording or platform listing

Air Force: Trials, Challenges & Realities

YouTube clip | SangamTalks Media | 2025-10-23. Role: Featured speaker.

Open the original recording or platform listing

Journey from Pune to Mumbai on the Vande Bharat Express

Embedded article video | Rediff | 2023-07-19. Role: Video: Nitin Sathe; author.

Open the original recording or platform listing

Flying the IAF Mi-8 and Mi-17 | Nitin Sathe (Part 1)

YouTube interview / podcast | Aircrew Interview | 2022-08-25. Role: Interview guest.

Open the original recording or platform listing

Don't Mess with a Hind! | Nitin Sathe (Part 2)

YouTube interview / podcast | Aircrew Interview | 2022-08-31. Role: Interview guest.

Open the original recording or platform listing

TRIBUTE TO MiG-21 - A PODCAST BY IAF

Official IAF YouTube podcast | Indian Air Force | 2025-09-25. Role: Contributing veteran speaker.

Open the original recording or platform listing

Date note: The research inventory lists CANDID TALKS Part 1 as 7 October 2024. An earlier website listing used 8 October; the release-date or timezone difference remains unresolved.

6 Selected reviews and coverage

These are references to published coverage. Listing a review, event or commendation does not imply an ongoing endorsement of services or programmes.

The Exotic Life of an Airforce Pilot

Independent book review | Ajit Balakrishnan, Rediff. Book discussed: Up in the Sky: Helicopter Stories.

Read the original coverage

Born To Fly wins Award for Best Non Fiction

Literary award report | Rediff news commentary; Valley of Words. Book discussed: Born to Fly.

Read the original coverage

Nitin Sathe's book well-researched: Air Chief Marshal

Book coverage / commendation | Rediff; Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhuri. Book discussed: 1971. 1999. War Stories.

Read the original coverage

सकारात्मक ऊर्जास्रोताची संघर्षगाथा

Marathi book review | Maharashtra Times. Book discussed: Aparajit (अपराजित), translation of Born to Fly.

Read the original coverage

Born to Fly (M P Anil Kumar)

Independent review; historical re-publication | Dr Narendra Yadav, Defence and Diplomacy Journal / Bharat Rakshak. Book discussed: Born to Fly.

Read the original coverage

Have you met the Siachen soldier?

Book coverage / publisher promotion | Rediff news commentary. Book discussed: The Siachen Soldier and Other Stories.

Read the original coverage

Air Cmde Nitin Sathe's 1971. 1999. War Stories is a collection of heroic tales from 1971 to Kargil

Independent book review | Maj Gen Raj Mehta (Retd), review text; Tribune Web Desk web byline. Book discussed: 1971. 1999. War Stories.

Read the original coverage

Full media and coverage collection

7 Documented appearances and research

The following records identify subjects and organisers. Dates are included only at the level established in the research register. Scheduled listings are kept separate from documented participation.

National Security and Disaster Management workshop

Central University of Kerala, Kasaragod. Recorded role: Presenter. Subject: Tsunami 2004: Disaster Management Lessons.

Source record

Winds of Change: Climate and Disaster Challenges to Indian Air Force Infrastructure

Jamsetji Tata School of Disaster Studies, TISS; CWE Jhansi programme. Recorded role: Online guest lecturer. Subject: Climate-resilient defence infrastructure; 2004 tsunami lessons.

Source record

Dweep Diksha Dialogue 2024

Andaman and Nicobar Command / Andaman Islands. Recorded role: Speaker / participant. Subject: HADR leadership and operational roles.

Source record

Shemrock Literary Festival and SSB Simplified book event

Shemrock Senior Secondary School, Mohali. Recorded role: Chief guest / author. Subject: Literary event; discussion of writing journey; SSB Simplified book release.

Source record

Transboundary water and security conference presentation

NIDM / TISS; Shifting Lands, Flowing Waters conference. Recorded role: Academic presenter. Subject: Approaching Trans-Boundary Perspectives on Water in South Asia from a Security Perspective.

Source record

Scheduled listings

The research register also contains scheduled listings for the Pune International Literary Festival conversation Balancing Bonds and a Military Literature Festival discussion on Longewala. A schedule alone is not proof that an appearance took place.

Media and appearance records

8 Preparing an interview or invitation

A concise brief helps identify the right subject and preparation needs. Use the following information when planning a conversation or a possible engagement.

Item	Information to prepare
Purpose	The subject, intended audience and reason for the invitation.
Format	Interview, moderated discussion, literary conversation or another agreed format.
Audience	Age or professional group, approximate size and prior familiarity with the topic.
Timing	Proposed date range, time zone, session length and preparation deadline.
Location	Online platform or venue and relevant travel arrangements.
Materials	Required biography length, introduction, questions, slides or reading.
Recording	Whether the conversation will be recorded and the intended use of excerpts.
Coordination	A named organiser and the process for agreeing scope, availability and terms.

Public resources

Biography

Books

Speaking and audience routes

Published articles

Interviews and recordings

An invitation does not establish a booking. Scope, availability, delivery arrangements and commercial terms must be agreed separately.

Media and speaking enquiries
enquiry@nitinsathe.com
https://nitinsathe.com/contact/